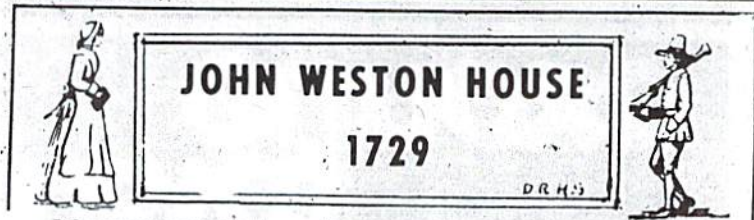


Historical houses - NAMED, M-Z

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John Weston built the red house on Surplus St. just before the old railroad crossing, but in 1729 neither the railroad nor the street were there. Only two paths went by this early site, paths that led to the shore, and the land had been vacant ever since John Weston got it as a grant in 1696. He had meanwhile been living in the Nook, on the west side of Captain's Hill, working as a shipwright.

At first it was a half house, a small house so-called because it was built so that it could be enlarged by a second half without losing its proportions. And that is just what happened within a few years. John was an aging man when he moved to his new house but his son, Abner, just married to Sarah Standish, lived with him and it was probably he who built on the west half of the house.

Five generations of Westons lived in the small house. They were mariners and cordwainers for the most part. After the first addition to the house they were content with it and it was virtually unchanged when it finally went out of the Weston family in 1881.

In this house was born Eliphas Weston who began the maritime venture that his son, Ezra, carried to such great success. The wealth of the Powder Point relatives never extended to the Surplus St. Westons and yet there was no strain in the relationships. They remained well-to-do, esteemed men in town but with a curious lack of concern for household change. The rooms under the eaves were never finished, the first floor rooms, only four and a butry, were small and low ceilinged, very plain.

The old Weston house remained structurally unspoiled and is now so carefully restored that John Weston, or Abner, would find only the added kitchen ell unfamiliar. The lovely old one story John Weston house, an 18th century treasure, is the home of the David Pattersons.

Dorothy Wentworth, Researcher